

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith concerning the subject application is an Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97, as more specifically described hereinbelow.

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§1.53 (d); ii) 37 C.F.R. §1. on the merits	This Statement is being filed: i) within three (3) months of the filing onal application other than a continued prosecution application under 33 C.F.R. within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in .491 in an international application; iii) before the mailing of a first Office action ; or iv) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for amination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.
C.F.R. §1.970 notice of allo	c). This Statement is being filed after the time period specified in 37 (b), but before the mailing date of: i) a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, ii) a wance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, or iii) an action that otherwise closes prosecution action. This Statement is being accompanied by:
	A statement as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) [see below]; or
	The fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
	The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 02-2955.

	ent as s	This Statement is being filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. on or before payment of the issue fee. This Statement is accompanied by a pecified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) [see below] and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R.
	1.97(e).
	counte	Each item of information contained in the instant information disclosure tent was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a expart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of stant information disclosure statement; or
	foreign makin inform §1.56(No item of information contained in the instant information disclosure tent was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after g reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the instant nation disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. (c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the instant information sure statement.
		The fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
	·	The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 02-2955.
counte n sect	erpart aption 1.50	d). Each item of information contained in the accompanying information tement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a oplication, which communication was not received by any individual designated 6(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of the accompanying isclosure statement.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 02-2955.

Triplicate copies of this form are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy X. Witkowski Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 40,232

Patent Department Boehringer Ingelheim Corp. 900 Ridgebury Road P.O. Box 368 Ridgefield, CT. 06877

Tel.: (203) 798-4310

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known Application Number 10/054.567 Filing Date November 13, 2001 First Named Inventor Schmelzer, C. et al Art Unit 1619 Examiner Name Attorney Docket Number 1/1171

Sheet U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Document Number Publication Date Name of Patentee or Examiner Cite No.1 MM-DD-YYYY Applicant of Cited Document Relevant Passages or Relevant Initials' Figures Appear Number-Kind Code² (# known) ^{US-}4,042,700 08/16/1977 Banholzer, R., et al ^{US-}4.608.377 08/26/1986 Banholzer, R., et al ^{US-} 4,783,534 Banholzer, R., et al 11/08/1988 ^{US-} 5,610,163 Banholzer, R., et al 03/11/1997 ^{US-} 5,654,314 Banholzer, R., et al 08/05/1997 ^{US-}5,770,738 Banholzer, R., et al 06/23/1998 ^{US-} 5,952,505 Banholzer, R., et al 09/14/1999 ^{US-}6,486,321 11/26/2002 Banholzer, R., et al ^{US-}6,506,900 Banholzer, R., et al 01/14/2003 ^{US-}2002/0115681 08/22/2002 Bozung, K-H., et al ^{US-}2003/0069310 04/10/2003 Linz, G. et al ^{US-}2002/0133010 09/19/2002 Banholzer, R. et al US-US-US-US-US-

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS										
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ 'Number ⁴ 'Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T _e				
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Date	
Examiner Date	
Signature Considered	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.